

The Three Branches of Government

By Jacqueline

When most kids think of the government they think of the President, but the government really made up of three branches. These branches are the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. The President is part of the Executive Branch along with a lot of other people and the Executive Branch is the one you are going to hear about first.

The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch is made up of the President and the President's Cabinet [the president's cabinet helps the president with different things.] The President has many jobs, one of which involves picking his Cabinet. Some other jobs that the President has are meeting with other countries, making treaties with them and approving the laws the Congress makes. When a bill is made the President has to approve it and sign it. The President has the power to refuse to sign a bill. He or she cannot write a bill, but they can propose a bill. If the President proposes a bill the Congress has to submit it for him or her. There are only two people in the government that are picked by the entire country, one of them is the President. In order to become the President there are many requirements. Some of these requirements are that you have to have been a natural born US citizen, and you have to have lived in the US for at least fourteen years. When you become President you can only serve for four years. After those four years you can get elected again for another four years. After that term you cannot serve as President again. This was not always the case. President Franklin Delenore Roosevelt served his four terms. It was after that the rule was applied so that one person would not be in power for too long.

Now that you know so much more about President I am going to tell you about the Members of the Presidents Cabinet. One of the people in the President's Cabinet is the Vice President. This is a very special person in the President's Cabinet because the President picks him or her while they are running for office. The Vice President is also one of the two people picked by the country. The Vice President runs with the President. The Vice President's job is to help the President.

The President's Cabinet has sixteen positions. Only the President picks the other people in his Cabinet if he or she wins. The head of each department is called the Secretary of that department. Each secretary has a special job.

The positions and there responsibilities in the President's Cabinet are the:

Secretary of Treasury - supervises the collection of money and the printing of money

The Secretary of State - works with other countries The Secretary of Defense - over sees the armed forces

The Attorney General - enforces the US government laws

The Secretary of the Interior - protects natural resources and wild life

The Secretary of Agriculture - provides a healthy food supply and who supports farmers'

The Secretary of Commerce - promotes business job opportunities and is responsible for all copyrights, trademarks, and patents plus he or she oversees matters related to oceans, weather, and technology

The Secretary of Labor - oversees the interests of workers

The Secretary of Health and Human Services - looks after people health and provides services including medical research, preventing diseases, assuring the safety of food and drugs, and providing financial assistance for low income families

The Secretary of Housing and Development - oversees housing needs and focuses on improving and developing communities

The Secretary of Transportation - oversees the nations transportation system

The Secretary of Energy - researches and develops environmental friendly energy systems

The Secretary of Education - establishes guidelines and provides leadership to address American education

The Secretary of Veteran Affairs - operates programs for veterans and their families and,

The Secretary of Homeland Security - works to reduce terrorist attacks on the USA.

These are the sixteen people in the presidents' cabinet, and as you can see they play a big role in the Executive Branch.

The Legislative Branch

Now that you know so much about the Executive branch I am going to tell you about the Legislative Branch. In the Legislative Branch there are Government Agencies and the Congress. The Government Agencies there are the Library of Congress and the Government Printing Office. Both of them help the Congress. The Congress makes laws about taxes and borrowing money, approves the making of money, makes laws controlling trade, and declares war.

In the Congress there is the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate can say yes or no to any treaties the President makes, they can say yes or no to any people the President recommends for jobs, and they can hold a trial for a government official who does something very wrong.

There are two Senators per state. That means that there are one hundred in the country. The requirements for becoming part of the Senate are:

You must be at least thirty

You must be a US citizen for the past nine years and,

You have to live in the state you represent. As you can see, you can do a lot when you are a Senator.

Now enough talk about the Senate, I am going to tell you about the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives is somewhat like the Senate. The House of representatives has requirements to. The requirements are:

You must be at least twenty-five years old

You have to live in the state that you represent and, You have to be a US citizen for the past seven years. As you can see the Senate and the House of Representatives both have three requirements and both of them have requirements of age, where you live, and how long you have been a citizen for. These are some ways that the Senate and the House of Representatives are alike.

There are four hundred thirty-five Representatives in the country. How many from each state depends on how many districts are in each state. This depends on the population of each state. How many Representatives and Senators there are reflect greatly on the election. This is Representatives and Senators there are determines the number of electoral votes each state is going to get.

The jobs of the members of House of Representative are:

They can start laws

Make people pay taxes and,

They can decide if a government official should be put on trial before the Senate if he or she commits a crime against the country. As you can see the legislative branch deals with laws, trials, writing bills, and declaring wars.

The Judicial Branch

So far you have learned about the Executive Branch, and the Legislative Branch. In the Executive Branch there is the President and the President's Cabinet. In the Legislative Branch there is the Congress, and the Government Agencies. In the Congress there is the Senate and the House of Representatives, and in the Government Agencies there is the Library of Congress, and the Government Printing Office. Now you are going to learn about the Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch works with court. The Judicial Branch is made up of the Supreme Court. The cases that go to the Supreme Court are cases that have made their way up from the local courts and the state courts. The Supreme Court only deals with cases that they think challenges The Constitution. If they think the case does not challenge The Constitution they will turn it down. The Supreme Court does not take a lot of cases. In fact, they only take about eighty cases of the seven thousand five hundred cases that get brought up to them. As you can see, they are very picky with the cases they take.

In the Supreme Court there are nine justices. These are the judges for the cases. They are also the people who decide whether the case challenge The Constitution. In order to become a justice you have to be appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. There are not very many requirements to become a justice. All you have to do to become a justice is practice law. You can be any age or an immigrant who just immigrated five years ago. If you become a justice you have your job for life. You can only lose your job if you retire, resign, or are impeached by the House of Representatives and convicted by the senate. The highest justice is the chief justice. He is the head of the justices, the Supreme Court and the Judicial Branch. As you can see the Judicial Branch really does not have many parts to it.

Now that you know about all of the three branches of government I am going to ask you some questions to see how carefully you read this information. My first three questions are about the Executive branch: 1. Who is the head of the Executive Branch? 2. How many people are in the Presidents' Cabinet? 3. Can you name one person in the Presidents' Cabinet? Now the questions for the Legislative Branch: 1. What positions make up the Legislative Branch? 2. Who can write bills? 3. What are the two positions in the Congress? Finally the questions for the Judicial Branch: 1. What positions make up the Judicial Branch? 2. Who is in the Supreme Court? 3. What is the head justice called?

I hope those questions got your brain thinking about the three branches of government. Remember there are many parts of our government, each one has a special

job, and they are all very important. Now you can go back to your daily life knowing so much more about government than you did before and so much more about government than anyone you know.